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Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2178

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WHEAT TO USSR

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture sales of 100,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to the USSR during the 1984-85 marketing year and under the first year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the first year of the agreement, which ends Sept. 30, now total just over 14 million tons. Seven and one-half million is wheat and the rest corn. Soybean sales total 416,200 tons. Sales of wheat and corn for delivery beginning Oct. 1 now total nearly 8 million tons. Over 6½ million tons is corn and the rest wheat.

WORLD TRADE: GRAIN & FEED

Reports of lower-than-expected corn production in France could mean additional European Community import demand for third-country exporters like the U.S. in 1984/85, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In recent years, France has become the major corn supplier to other EC countries, exporting nearly 5 million tons in 1983/84. In contrast, U.S. corn shipments to the EC have steadily fallen from over 16 million tons in 1976/77 to about 3 million tons in 1983/84. With French corn production down, EC import demand for third-country corn will be up, though use of domestic barley and wheat could partially replace corn.

WHEAT & FLOUR EXPORTS

U.S. exports of wheat and flour for fiscal 1984 are still forecast at \$6.3 billion and 39 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although volume through June was down slightly from a year earlier, wheat exports should strengthen for the rest of the fiscal year. Abundant stocks in the U.S., Canada, Australia and the EC will keep prices soft, and make the international wheat market highly competitive.

COARSE GRAINS EXPORTS

U.S. exports of coarse grains are forecast at \$8.4 billion and 55.4 million tons, down from the \$8.6 and 56.1 million estimated in May, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This reduction stems primarily from the increased foreign use of wheat for feed. Also, some importers are delaying purchases in anticipation of a larger U.S. crop. Although the export forecast for most coarse grains is lower, the outlook for sorghum has improved, as importers have switched from corn to more abundant sorghum.

ECONOMY
GROWS

The world economy could grow at least 4 pct. this year, following 4 years of under 2 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. will lead the industrialized countries. Major foreign industrialized economies are experiencing increases in exports and smaller gains in investment and personal consumption. A stabilizing or gradually falling dollar value would improve U.S. agricultural export prospects. U.S. agricultural exports may reach \$38 billion in FY '84, up 9 pct. from last year. Coarse grain sales will lead the advance, while volume for soybeans and products will be smaller.

OILSEEDS &
PRODUCTS
EXPORTS

U.S. exports of oilseeds and products are projected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at \$9.1 billion, up 3 pct. from last year, but down \$300 million from the May estimate. Although the value of oilseeds and products is up, the volume will slip well below 1983. Smaller U.S. soybean supplies, larger Argentine production, and weak meal demand in the European Community are the main reasons for the volume decline.

MITES &
BEES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed that mites found in a bee yard in New Iberia, La., are acarine mites, an internal parasite of honeybees. The infestation was found on Aug. 20 and involves 600 colonies kept by one beekeeper in the Louisiana Delta town. It is the first discovery of the pest outside Texas, where it was first discovered in July. Federal emergency regulations to prevent further spread of the mite are in effect in Texas, and regulations will be proposed for Louisiana, including the destruction of infested bees.

RED MEAT
PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in July totaled just over 3 billion pounds, up one percent from July 1983, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jan.-July red meat production, at 22.4 billion pounds, is up 3 pct. from last year. The 1984 accumulated production percent changes by individual components were: beef, up 4 pct.; veal, up 14 pct.; pork, up 1 pct.; lamb and mutton, up 4 pct. (For more information, call 202-477-6880.)

CORN FOR
DISASTER
AREAS

Sec'y of Agric. John R. Block announced that livestock producers in counties previously designated by the USDA as disaster areas due to drought or excess moisture, will continue to be eligible to buy Commodity Credit Corporation-owned lower grade corn under the emergency feed assistance program. Some county designations for USDA Farmers Home Admin. emergency loans will expire beginning Sept. 5. Producers should continue to contact offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for program details and applications for assistance.

WATER CURE
FOR PAPAYA

A new double hot-water dip will allow most commercial shipments of papaya to move from Hawaii to the mainland by eliminating fruit fly pests without chemical fumigation, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Use of ethylene dibromide as a fumigant was approved earlier but this approval has been retracted. Recent research determined that a double hot water dip destroys all life stages of three flies in papaya that are one-quarter ripe, or less. The new method is in the Aug. 29 Federal Register. Send written comments by Oct. 9 to: Director, Regulatory Coordination Staff, APHIS, USDA, 728 Federal Bldg., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE "Boxed Beef Update"...Boxed beef is a fast growing form of marketing that is gaining in popularity and attention. Kenneth Stricklin, Packers and Stockyards Admin., talks about the advantages of this practice. Jim Johnson interviews. (196)

"Overview of Crop Reporting"...USDA crop production and trade reports greatly influence world commodity markets. Lloyd Fleck, Foreign Agricultural Serv., explains how this information is gathered and analyzed. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (197)

"Economic Outlook for Farms"...USDA economist Sandra Suddendorf focuses on the current economic status of U.S. agriculture, including net cash income, farm production expenses and the current debt-to-asset ratio. Victor Powell interviews. (198)

"Foreign Agricultural Trade"...USDA economist Tom Warden talks about the current outlook for foreign agricultural trade in the U.S., including higher exports, and a strong U.S. dollar, and what this will mean for U.S. farmers. Victor Powell interviews. (199)

"Expanding Export Markets"...USDA economist Pat Haslach focuses on some of the factors contributing to the expansion of U.S. exports to other countries, particularly developing nations. George Holmes interviews. (200)

PREMATURE BABIES FUSSY ABOUT MILK Mothers of premature babies produce milk that is easier to digest and more suited to developing the premature baby's brain and nervous system than milk of mothers who deliver full-term babies, according to research of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Milk from mothers delivering premature babies has nearly twice as many long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids, believed to be vital to the growth of brain cells and the formation of lining around nerve fibers.

U.S. FARM WOMEN TO EC Twenty U.S. farm women leaders are visiting the European Community, Sept. 8-22. The two-week tour will include stops in England, France, W. Germany, The Netherlands and the EC headquarters in Brussels. They'll meet with leaders of EC farm organizations, EC gov't officials, and with farm women leaders in the EC countries. According to Sec'y of Agric. John R. Block, "The purpose of the trip is to provide the opportunity for U.S. farm women and the people they meet to achieve a greater understanding of one another's agricultural systems and philosophies."

CHICKENS BUSY The U.S. laying flocks produced 5-3/4 billion eggs during July, up 2 pct. from the 5 billion, 650 million of a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Production included just over 5 billion table or commercial type and 588 million hatching eggs. The total number of layers during July averaged 276 million, 2 pct. above the 270 million a year ago. July egg production per 100 layers for the total laying flock was 2083 eggs compared with 2096 eggs for July 1983.

WOOL IN BETTER SHAPE The second-quarter wool mill use equaled 40 million pounds, and use of apparel wool was the highest since 1973, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mill use for 1984 is expected to total 155 million pounds--12 pct. higher than in 1983.

OFF MIKE

"Trips" seem to be the name of the game for farm broadcasters. Some short. Some long. On the longer side is the one Max Armstrong (WGN, Chicago) is on. He's with a group that left Aug. 24 for a two week trip to Korea, Taiwan and Japan ... And in talking with George Gatley (KBLU/KTTI/W.Ag. Nets, Yuma, AZ) we learned about a preview trip to Australia...preview, that is, for the NAFB tour to Australia and New Zealand scheduled for January. George signed up to go on the preview trip in mid-September and speculated other farm broadcasters would be going, too, but didn't have names. No doubt we'll have more on this later ... A big apology is in order to KXLY in Spokane. Earlier we had reported that Wey Simpson is now working with Bob Hoff at KXYL in Spokane, WA. Wrong. The call letters should be KXLY. We're embarrassed because back in a previous life we used to take guests from Washington State University to KXLY to produce a weekly 15-minute television series for distribution around the Pacific Northwest. In other words, we KNOW it's KXLY. The gremlins that afflict all typewriters and word processors don't ... We're starting our own saugaro cactus forest here in the office, thanks to a packet of seeds from Gordon Graham at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He even told us "Oske-wa-wa" which turns out to mean "Congratulations" in some Indian tribal language (Gordon didn't say which). The "Oska-wa-wa" was for our change from acting chief to chief here at USDA. A number of others took time to Oske-wa-wa us, too, and we thank them all ... An item we've been saving involves ten ducks and Gary Truitt (Brownfield Net, Centertown, MO), but it probably needs updating since he first told us about acquiring the ducklings from Derry Brownfield back in May. At that time, Gary's observations were "...all is going well. The only problem is they eat more than most NAFB broadcasters I know. In fact they make about as much noise as many press room gatherings of NAFB types." Remember, if you take exception to these comparisons, don't complain to us. Gary said them, so he deserves your attention.


FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1422...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Whenever farmland is irrigated, the land can become tainted with salt. Some researchers are concerned that this could lead to a loss of productivity in certain soils. Doug Wakefield explores the problem and possible solutions.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1411...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; A program to help U.S. farm product exporters; Bigger better livestock??; Update on alternative fuels; Venezuela as a customer for U.S. farmers.

CONSUMER TIME #904...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) The agony and the "egg"stasy; Want to jog?; The four phases of divorce; Choosing running shoes; The flying high circus.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Sept. 4, Agricultural outlook, Crop and weather update; Mon, Sept. 10, Sugar and sweeteners outlook; Wed, Sept. 12, U.S. and world crop production report. Dial the USDA National News lines 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.



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